

## **CHAPTER VIII--BARBECUE PIT AND PIT-COOKING ROOM CONSTRUCTION**

### **A. Room Construction.**

Pit-cooking rooms built according to these minimum construction requirements shall be restricted to barbecue cooking equipment and barbecue cooking activities only. No additional food preparation or processing activities shall be permitted in these rooms unless there is full compliance with all construction requirements pertaining to food preparation rooms. Remaining areas of the establishment shall comply with all applicable requirements of this regulation.

1. Pit-cooking rooms shall be conveniently located to the food service establishment when not physically attached. Approved covered containers shall be used to protect meats conveyed to and from a remote pit-cooking room.
2. All sides and ceiling of the pit room shall be completely enclosed. Screening may be used above wainscot height (4 to 5 feet) on walls and must be at least 16 mesh. All outside openings shall be protected against insects by tight-fitting, self-closing doors, closed windows, screening, approved air curtains, or other means. Canvas flaps or other effective devices may be required to protect against blowing contamination.
3. Floors of pit-cooking rooms, excluding pit floors, shall be constructed of smooth, durable materials such as sealed concrete, quarry tile, vinyl floor covering, or other approved material which shall be maintained in good repair. Floors approved for water flushing, such as quarry tile or sealed concrete, must be graded to floor drains, and must have junctures between walls and floors sealed.
4. Interior walls shall have smooth, easily cleanable, and washable surfaces to at least wainscot height. If screening is used above wainscot, studs and other exposed bracing shall be sealed or painted. Concrete blocks or other masonry products used for wall construction shall be trowelled, skim-coated, or receive sufficient coats of full strength block filler to render a smooth surface prior to the application of a washable paint.
5. Ceilings shall be finished to provide a smooth, nonabsorbent, and easily cleanable surface. Trusses and rafters shall not be exposed. Ceiling joists shall be properly sealed.

### **B. Pit Construction.**

1. Pit floors may consist of a solid base of compacted clay with a top layer of clean sand to absorb grease drippings. Sand must be replaced as necessary to maintain a safe and sanitary condition. Pit floors may also be constructed of concrete, fire brick, or other material which can be cleaned and maintained.
2. Pit walls (exterior sides only) shall be smooth, easily cleanable, and washable. Concrete blocks or other masonry products used for pit construction must be trowelled, skim coated, or receive sufficient coats of full strength block filler applied to the exterior wall prior to the application of a washable paint.
3. Pit grills, grates, and other supports shall be constructed of smooth, easily cleanable, nonabsorbent, and non-toxic material and shall be in sections that are easily removable for cleaning. Expanded metal and cast iron grating are recommended materials which can

be cleaned and maintained. Hog wire, chicken wire, hardware cloth, and similar materials are permitted for single-use only and must be discarded after each cooking period.

4. Pit covers shall be single-use or shall be constructed of a smooth, easily cleanable, nonabsorbent, and non-toxic material.

### **C. Ventilation.**

Pit-cooking rooms shall be ventilated and kept reasonably free of excessive heat, vapors, smoke, and fumes by ventilating the pit itself or by ventilating the room. Pit ventilation can be achieved by a chimney or duct using dampers, pit doors, or other devices to control air flow. Pit-cooking rooms may be ventilated by a cathedral ceiling with screened roof-ridge vents, mechanical exhaust fans, or other effective methods when pits are not directly vented to the outside.

### **D. Lavatories.**

A handwashing lavatory supplied with hot and cold water, mixing faucet, soap, and sanitary towels shall be provided in the pit room.

### **E. Lighting.**

At least 20 foot-candles of light shall be provided on all working surfaces including the handwashing lavatory.